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SECURITY INFORMATION

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INDOCHINA

17 Sept

I. Moscow has recently hinted at possible peace in Indochina.

A. Peiping has followed by stating that France can find an Indo-china solution only through negotiations.

B. Communists overtures are apparently aiming only for a position of maneuverability in case of sudden changes in the Far East picture.

C. Viet Minh failure to take up peace theme suggests no definite Communist policy yet formed on peace.

II. There is no let-up in Soviet and Chinese support of the Viet Minh.

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A. Both Moscow and Peiping
publicizing Ho Chi Minh's
assertion that independence
can only be won by force of arms.

1. They express confidence in
a Viet Minh victory.

III. Best bet is that Soviets do not want
negotiations now.

A. Communists never willing negotiate
conflict they are winning and Viet
Minh is winning.

B. Probably they are trying to exploit
war weariness in France.

1. Such exploitation would be
designed to cause US-French
conflicts or,

2. To undermine Vietnamese faith
in the French.

IV. Also possible that peace theme is
hedge against future Viet Minh reverses.

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- A. Switch from military to political action always follows Communist military defeats in Far East and used to screen them.

25X1X7

V.

[REDACTED] generally agreed that major Viet Minh effort this fall will be gainst vital Tonkin delta.

25X1C

A.

[REDACTED] enemy regular divisions and infiltration tactics along southern leg of delta triangle bear this out.

- B. Three more divisions are poised to move against northern defenses.

- C. Viet Minh has withdrawn most of its forces from Laos and reduced supply activity there.

VI. The delta's vulnerability is aggravated by heavy infiltration, mostly by Viet Minh regulars.

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A. This forces French to use all but three divisions there for static defense.

1. Viet Minh's regular divisions have almost unrestricted freedom of movement.

B. [REDACTED] the Viet Minh could even overrun delta, but probably won't because of the high cost in casualties.

VII. Cambodia's newly proclaimed "neutrality" toward war in neighboring Vietnam not a surprising development.

A. Cambodia has its hands full with local insurgents.

1. Viet Minh has only 1,000 regulars there.

B. The Cambodians are overwhelmingly preoccupied with the independence issue and integrity of their own

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- C. They are not able to make any large contribution to war in Vietnam.

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